received in June, 1991. The Committee confirmed tne presence of arsenic pollution beyond permissible limit in some localised patches. The Committee had observed that the deposition of huge amount of arsenic could not be anthropogenic and the source might be geo-physical. The Committee suggested to take the third aquifer of the ground water; Recently, some case of arsenic pollution have been found even in the water drawn from the third aquifer. Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission had also sponsored a study by the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health on the removal of arsenic from ground water. The final reports of the study is still awaited.

(a) Special assistance will be considered by the Central Government on receipt of specific proposals from the State Government.

(d) The assistance would be in the nature of technical guidance and financial asistance under the Sub Missions under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission.

(e) In the affected areas, safe alternative sources of supply are to be proivded from sources free from arsenic. It is also necessary to undertake further research and development to clearly establish the causes of excess arsenic, to demarcate the affected areas and develop the treatment processes. The State Government of West Bengal have constituted another Committee for further in-depth studies for the problems.

Implementation of Chakbandi

£4818. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chakbandi implementation has ben dropped in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therofer;

(c) wheher Government have studied the likely impact of chakbandi abolition on the farmers of Bihar and also on other States of the Union; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the State Government of Bihar.

(c) No such study has been undertaken by the Central Government.

(d) Question does not arise.

Agricultural Produce s Marketing Regulations

££4819. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM has called for substantial changes in the model law the Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulations prepared by the "Centre" for adoption by the State Governments to protect the interests of farmers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The ASSOCHAM has suggested following changes:—

(1) The definition of agricultural produce be made more explicit to

&&Previously unstarred question 3299, transferred from 7th August, 1992.

£Previously untared question 3300, transferred 7th August, 1992.